

A

NSC review completed

February 4, 1983

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Mr. President,

The proposals of the Administration to the American Congress with respect to fiscal year 1984 military and economic assistance programs, created, as it should have been expected, grave concerns to the people of Greece.

I should like to stress that the concerns of my government are aggravated because the Administration appears to depart from the long standing practice, established in accordance with the 1978 amendment to the 1961 Foreign Assistance Act, of preserving the balance of military strength in the region of the Aegean. At the same time, it directly associates the level of assistance to Greece with the outcome of our current negotiations on a new Defence and Economic Cooperation Agreement.

One of the basic conditions which the Greek government has put forward for the arrival at a mutually acceptable agreement is that the balance of military forces in the region shall be preserved both qualitatively and quantitatively.

A direct result of the announcement of the proposals made by the Administration for the fiscal year 1984 military and economic assistance program to Turkey, is that so far as the Greek government is concerned they should also determine the level of the security assistance program to Greece, for the corresponding period.

The Greek government cannot ignore the fact that unless the balance of military forces in the region is maintained, the already fragile stability in our region shall be upset with unpredictable consequences.

As you well understand, this creates a climate which is not helpful to our negotiations for the conclusion of a new Defence and Economic Cooperation Agreement and may have a negative impact on the relations between our two countries.

Let me express the hope that the U.S. government will appreciate the crucial character of the issue before our two countries.

Sincerely,

A.G. Papandreou